

WHAT IS THIS JUROR QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE THAT CAME IN THE MAIL?

The addressee was randomly selected from the State of Florida's voter registration list (maintained by his/her county's Supervisor of Elections) to be included in the United States District Court-Middle District of Florida's master jury wheels and to receive one of these Juror Qualification Questionnaires. Refilling the master jury wheels is something that is done by the USDC-MDFL every odd-numbered year. After the addressee's Juror Qualification Questionnaire has been reviewed by the Court, **he/she may or may not be called** for federal jury service within the 2006-2008 time frame. Qualified jurors called to report are selected entirely at random.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT JUROR QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRES AND FEDERAL GRAND/PETIT JURY SERVICE IN THE USDC-MDFL?

The United States District Court-Middle District of Florida invites you to view its internet site at www.flmd.uscourts.gov. Click on the words "Jury Info" at the top right to get started. Telephone numbers for additional information are also provided for your convenience on the back side of this information sheet.

HERE ARE SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JUROR QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRES

What should I do with the Juror Qualification Questionnaire?

Please read it carefully, fill it out, and return it to the Clerk's Office **within 10 days**. If another person fills out the Questionnaire for you, please indicate that person's name, address, and reason why, in the "Remarks" section.

What should I do if the Juror Qualification Questionnaire is for someone else who previously lived at my address, or is deceased, or has moved out of state?

Please write this either on the Questionnaire itself or on the outside of the envelope and return it to the Court. If the person has moved and you know their new address, you can forward the Questionnaire to them.

What should I do if the Juror Qualification Questionnaire is for someone who is currently out of state?

If the person is away from home for a short period of time (less than three months) you may either forward it to the person or hold the Questionnaire for his/her return at which time he/she can fill it out and return it to the Court.

If the person will be away from home for three or more months and you do not have an address for him/her, please write that on the Questionnaire itself and return it to the Court.

What should I do if I don't feel that I can serve as a juror?

Please review the Juror Qualification Questionnaire carefully. There is information on the Questionnaire which may address your concerns. You may also include information under the "Remarks" section on the back of the Questionnaire when you send it in.

Am I qualified to serve?

The statutory qualifications for federal jury service (28 U.S.C. §1865) are:

- You must be a citizen of the United States of America, at least 18 years of age, who has resided for a period of one year within the judicial district;
- You must be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language;
- You must be physically and mentally capable to render satisfactory jury service; and
- You must not have felony charge(s) pending against you, or have been convicted of a felony and your civil rights have not been restored.

If you do not meet **all** the qualifications for jury service, you must provide details on the back of the Questionnaire.

CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE

Am I exempt from jury service?

The Jury Act (28 U.S.C. §1863(b)(5)(B)(6)) specifies that the following persons are barred from jury service on the ground that they are exempt:

- Members in **active service** of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- Members of any governmental fire or police departments; and
- Public officers of the United States, state or local governments (elected to public office or directly appointed by one elected to office) who are actively engaged in the performance of official duties.

Can I be excused from jury service?

The Juror Qualification Questionnaire simply allows the Court to determine if a person is **qualified** to serve as a juror. If a person is selected to serve and receives a summons to report, he/she may ask to be excused at that time. There are limited permanent excuses that may be granted at the Qualification Questionnaire stage. If you fall under one of these categories and you wish to be excused, please fill in the appropriate bubble on the form and provide the necessary additional information required on the back of your Questionnaire.

GROUND FOR REQUESTING A PERMANENT EXCUSE

- Persons over 70 years of age [you must provide date of birth];
- Persons having responsibility for providing in-home care and custody of a child or children under the age of ten (10) whose health and/or safety would be jeopardized by their absence for jury service [you must provide ages of child(ren)];
- Persons who are essential to the care of aged or infirm persons [you must specify your relationship to the person requiring care and whether they are aged or infirm];
- Persons who have, within the past two years, served on a federal grand or petit jury panel (see 28 U.S.C. §1866(e)) [you must provide date served and court name];
- Voluntary safety personnel serving a public agency as a non-compensated firefighter or a member of an ambulance or rescue squad [you must provide name of agency and your position]; or
- Persons with arrest powers who are not otherwise exempt pursuant to Section 7.04 of the USDC-MDFL Jury Plan [you must provide name of agency and your position].

Why are there questions about race, ethnicity, and gender on the Juror Qualification Questionnaire?

These questions may seem inappropriate but they are not. In fact, this information is solicited from you in order to protect and preserve our constitutionally guaranteed right to a trial by a jury of our peers randomly selected from a fair cross-section of the community.

Federal law requires you, as a prospective juror, to indicate your race. Further, the law states, in part: "No citizen [of the United States of America] shall be excluded from service as a grand or petit juror in the district courts of the United States . . . on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status."

In order to preserve the integrity of the jury selection process, the Court follows a system of checks and balances designed to reveal any systematic bias or discrimination. The Court needs your assistance in compiling this data, so please take the time to completely answer this question.

DON'T FORGET

- **YOU CAN GET INFORMATION ABOUT JUROR QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRES AND FEDERAL GRAND/PETIT JURY SERVICE 24 HOURS A DAY & 7 DAYS A WEEK BY VISITING THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA'S INTERNET SITE, www.flmd.uscourts.gov . JUST CLICK ON THE WORDS "JURY INFO" AT THE TOP RIGHT TO GET STARTED.**
- **YOU MAY ALSO CALL THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
 - 813-301-5474** Tampa Division (Serves those in Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties.)
 - 239-461-2130** Ft Myers Division (Serves those in Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.)
 - 407-835-4333** Orlando Division (Serves those in Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties.)
 - 904-549-6008** Jacksonville Division (Serves those in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St Johns, Suwannee, and Union Counties.)
 - 352-369-7411** Ocala Division (Serves those in Citrus, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties.)

Thank you in advance for your prompt return of your Questionnaire.